EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EFAP)

Mission of EFAP

To alleviate hunger in the state of Washington by providing funds, technical assistance, and information to community programs that deliver emergency food and services to hungry people

Funding for EFAP

State General Funds: FY 2010: \$5.04 Million; FY 2011: \$5.03 million. Grants are for two years for food banks and tribes.

EFAP activities

Food Bank Program: Food banks and distribution centers use funding for operating emergency food programs to feed people who are in need of food. Funding may pay for: Administrative costs (up to 10% of the grant an agency receives); operational costs such as rent, salaries, gasoline for vehicles and supplies; purchase of food; nutrition training for staff and clients; equipment. In recent years, the program has increased its focus on procuring nutritious food and working with local producers as well as encouraging providers to utilize identified best practices.

Tribal Voucher Program: Tribes use funding to operate voucher programs to provide food vouchers to people who are in need of food. The vouchers are then exchanged for food at grocery stores. Funding may pay for: Administrative costs (up to 10% of the grant); operational costs (up to 5% of the grant) and the face value of the vouchers. Note: Tribes may apply for the food bank program, the voucher program or both.

Who can receive assistance from EFAP-supported food banks?

For both the food bank and voucher program, the state sets a minimum requirement that clients simply declare they do not have the resources to feed themselves and their families. Food banks and tribes may have additional requirements such as the client must live in a certain geographic area or they may only access services so many times a year. However, providers may not discriminate against any class of people.

Application process

WSDA awards biennial grants every two years for both the food bank and tribal voucher programs. Applicants submit applications in May of odd years.

Food Bank Program: Nontribal agencies apply through lead agencies in each county to participate as food bank. The process begins early spring in odd years. Lead agencies submit an application packet in May for the food banks and distribution centers in their service areas. All perspective recipients must participate in a meeting with the lead agency, usually in April, prior to the application being submitted to make crucial decisions about how to use the funding.



Fast Facts:

Currently EFAP provides funding and services to 330 food banks and distribution centers and 31 tribes.

Food banks distributed 124 million pounds of food to clients. 48 million pounds of that were provided by state-supported distribution centers.

In Fiscal Year 2010, there were 7.7 million visits made by 1.5 million people (= 5 visits per person per year) at food banks. 30% were children and 12% were seniors.

In FY10, tribes provided vouchers to 9,600 people. 39% were children and 12.5% were seniors.

Client Statements

"I've been eating more healthy since coming to the food bank. The produce really helps. I'm eating whole grain breads and rice now. I've even lost weight since coming here."

"I think the food bank is such a blessing... If I didn't have the food bank I don't know what would happen to us." Tribal food banks may apply directly to the state or through the lead agency in their area.

Tribal Voucher Program: Tribes may apply directly to WSDA or through another tribe or tribal organization. Applications are due in May of odd years. Tribes applying for both the voucher and food bank program must apply directly with WSDA.

Which providers are eligible for funding?

- Food bank programs must have been operating at least one year as a food bank or distribution center
- Providers must have had its 501(c)3 status for at least a year or be a federally recognized tribe.
- Providers must have proper and adequate fiscal systems in place and submit annual audits, if applicable.
- Providers must agree to abide by the EFAP Policies and Procedures, including but limited to: Meet specific match requirements; submit required reports, including monthly data; practice non-discrimination in providing services; and not require participation in religious ceremonies or charge fees for services.

EFAP supports food bank and tribal providers with technical assistance.

- <u>Program</u> reports, documents, and publications.
- <u>Training</u> modules on board of directors, fund raising, media

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